(b) if so, whether some of the officials of RSP in charge of modernisation have been found involved in corruption to the tune of crores;

(c) what steps Government are proposing to take against such officials;

(d) whether any MD of RSP at the time of modernisation is found involved in any such a deal;

(e) if so, the steps taken against the MD; and

(f) the reasons for the failure of RSP after spending such a huge amount in modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) and (f) Modernisation schemes in Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) are at an advanced stage of completion. The modernised units are under stabilisation and thereafter the performance of RSP is expected to improve. However, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has suffered losses during the last three years.

The main reasons for decline in profits in RSP (SAIL) include slow down in demand for steel, greater competition from imports, and enhancement in supplies in domestic market etc.. Further, the profits were adversely affected due to increase in input prices and higher interest & depreciation burden which could not be fully neutralised by better techno-economie Parameters, cost reduction measures and increase in the prices of steel etc..

(b) to (e) The allegations regarding modernisation in RSP were examined by SAIL Corporate Vigilance but none of the allegations was proved.

Pilferage of chromite ores in Orissa

1667. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale pilferage of chromite ores from Sukinda Valley in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps to ensure adequate measures to check the pilferage of chromite ores; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Survey for minerals in Gujarat

1666. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey has been undertaken by the Geological Department to locate various minerals in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Geological Survey of India,

Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. and State Directorate of Geolcgj and Mining, Gujarat are the main agencies engaged in mineral surveys/investigations in Gujarat, The surveys have been carried out for basemetal, bauxite, lignite, limestone, industrial clay, *mmble,* graphite rock phosphate, dimension stone, silica sand and wollastonite etc The surveys have established reserves of minerals in the State which are furnished in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) Question does not arise.

Statement

Survey for Minerals in Gujarat

Mineral	Unit	Recoverable Reserves
Ball Clay	000t	50
Bauxite	,,	117323
Bentonite	,,	89572
Calcite	Tonne	6890